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Tuesday, 07 October 2008, 19:48  
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107438

SIPDIS  
USUN FOR JEFF DELAURENTIS  
EO 12958 DECL: 09/23/2018  
TAGS PREL, KPAO, PHUM, BM  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE REQUEST: REPLACEMENT OF SRSG GAMBARI FOR  
BURMA MISSION  
Classified By: IO PDAS James Warlick. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).  
11. (U) This is an action request. See para. 4.  
12. (C) Department views the "good offices" mission of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative (SRSG) to Burma as an important vehicle for promoting dialogue and progress on peripheral matters (e.g., a possible economic forum, the possible role of the good offices mission and Gambari's inability to secure significant progress from the Burmese regime, US-Myanmar relations, etc.).  
13. (C) Gambari appears unrealistically upbeat, pursuing and reporting progress on peripheral matters (e.g., a possible economic forum, the possible role of the good offices mission and Gambari's inability to secure significant progress from the Burmese regime, US-Myanmar relations, etc.).  
14. (C) Considering the key role of the good offices mission and Gambari's inability to secure significant progress from the Burmese regime, US-Myanmar relations, etc.).  
15. (C) Taking into account Gambari's usefulness in his concurrent role as UN advisor on the International Compact with Iraq, as well as SYG Be  
16. (C/rel to UN) Begin points:  
-- Over time, the United States has become increasingly concerned that the UN good offices mission in regard to Burma is in dire jeopardy.  
-- Special Representative Gambari's fourth and latest trip to Burma continued a disturbing pattern of regime-managed itineraries; restricted access to the regime; and a lack of progress on peripheral matters.  
-- While the main responsibility for this lack of progress should be attributed to regime intransigence, Mr. Gambari has not been willing to accept responsibility for the lack of progress.  
-- We have no wish to embarrass Mr. Gambari and have no intent to link any removal with a lack of progress in Burma, but we would ask that you urge him to accept responsibility for the lack of progress.  
-- We urge you not to rush to name a replacement. There have been a series of Special Representatives, none of whom have succeeded due to regime intransigence.  
-- There is talk of your ramping up your personal involvement on Burma, or perhaps even visiting. We think you could play an important role but we do not believe you should do so.  
-- We understand that the Burmese are unlikely to make major concessions as a condition for your visit. However, we do not believe you should expect them to.  
End points. RICE